

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

## Press Release

*For Immediate Release, Monday, Dec. 9, 2013*

*For more information, contact Icelandic State Park (701) 265-4561*

### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT NEAR ICELANDIC STATE PARK**

The 23rd annual Christmas Bird Count is Thursday, Dec. 19. Participants meet at the Pioneer Heritage Center at Icelandic State Park at 7:30 a.m. Detour signs in place due to Renwick Dam construction are for lake and campground access only. Participants can use the regular park entrance off Highway 5 to get to the Pioneer Heritage Center. Counts will be tallied at the center at 5 p.m.

The count will be one of about 1,600 held in North America during the Christmas season. Results of the count are reported to the National Audubon Society for inclusion in "American Birds."

This count covers approximately the same area as the one conducted in the 1950s by the late Ed Bry, former editor of North Dakota Outdoors magazine. Ed conducted the counts while he was a game warden stationed at Walhalla. Participants count all birds seen in a circle 15 miles in diameter. The center of the circle is at the northwest edge of Jay Wessels Game Management Area, south of Walhalla. Walhalla is at the extreme north edge of the circle, Olga marks the west edge, and the south edge is about a mile north of Mountain and the east edge passes through Backoo.

Volunteers are needed to survey portions of the area by vehicle with birder Mike Jacobs of the Grand Forks Herald and Rendezvous Region Bird Club members. Others living in the count area are invited to participate by counting birds at their feeders or anywhere on their property Thursday, Dec. 19. Counts should be called in from 4:30 to 5 p.m. at 265-4561. Anyone with questions about the count should call the same number.